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Dear Dr. Baltimore,

It is with a mixture of overwhelming appreciation and certain regret at your departure that I write to thank you for your service on the governing board of the CIRM.

Immediately prior to the June 5th ICOC meeting at UCLA, you informed me that the requirements on you as President of AAAS along with your own critical medical research, and your impending resignation from executive functions at Caltech, would require you to resign your ICOC board seat. This is both because of demands on your time and because of the initiative requirement that you participate in executive functions at the University. Now that the transition to the new president at Caltech is complete, and given your increasingly busy schedule with AAAS and the time you must devote to your research, you stated that the time has come for you to focus primarily on those two things.

On behalf of the board, I wish to convey our gratitude, deep appreciation and respect for the tremendous contribution you have made to the governing board of the CIRM. I also wish to thank you for the advisory role you played in the formulation of the peer review process that I wrote into the Initiative.

Your scientific leadership has been invaluable to the governing board, the nation and the world in advancing a broad range of biomedical research spanning more than three decades.

It has been a great privilege for each of us to serve on the board with you. We wish you great successes in the leadership of AAAS and in the continuation of your brilliant scientific research, which we know will continue to bring immeasurable value to medical research. Thank you once more for your unique and invaluable service.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Klein
Chairman, ICOC